

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1191

By Hill

A RESOLUTION expressing the sense of the General Assembly relative to the National Day of Prayer.

WHEREAS, since 1952, every President of the United States has declared a National Day of Prayer; in 1988, President Ronald Reagan first designated the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May, and every subsequent President has done likewise; and

WHEREAS, a federal district court has recently ruled the National Day of Prayer unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, this decision is patently wrong-headed and disrespectful to the religious beliefs of millions upon millions of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, prayer is very important to Americans and is a transcendent force in American society; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer simply acknowledges the important role of religion in the United States, a fact that every President since Harry S. Truman has recognized by issuing a proclamation declaring a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, setting aside a special day "to turn to God in prayer," as the National Day of Prayer does, continues a time-honored American tradition and encourages each citizen to exercise his or her First Amendment rights in a manner firmly rooted within the principles encompassed in the United States Constitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the people of Tennessee still support the National Day of Prayer. This Body likewise offers its stalwart support for the

National Day of Prayer and encourages each Tennessean, in keeping with his or her religion, to turn to God in prayer on May 6, 2010, and on each subsequent National Day of Prayer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges and encourages the United States Department of Justice to appeal the United States District Court decision ruling the National Day of Prayer unconstitutional.